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EXILES

DAYS OF THEN AND NOW

THE HEROES OF EARTH LAUNCHED THE HULK INTO SPACE.

THAT MADE HIM ANGRY.

WHILE FLOATING AIMLESSLY, HE WAS PICKED UP BY WARRIORS OF ANNIHILUS.

ANNIHILUS OFFERED HIM A CHOICE: JOIN US OR DIE. HE CHOSE OPTION THREE AND KILLED ANNIHILUS.

HE TOOK CONTROL OF THE ANNIHILATION WAVE AND TURNED IT TOWARDS EARTH. WHEN HE ARRIVED IT WAS CLEAR HIS INTENTIONS WERE LESS THAN FRIENDLY.

WITH NO OTHER CHOICE THE MIGHTIEST HEROES ON THE PLANET TOOK THE FIGHT TO HIM. MOST DID NOT SURVIVE THE BATTLE TO REACH THE HULK'S VESSEL.

THE HEROES WHO DID FOUGHT VALIANTLY UNTIL ONLY ONE REMAINED.

CHAPTER ONE:

A WORLD WITHOUT HEROES

AND LIKE THE OTHERS, WOLVERINE WAS NEVER HEARD FROM AGAIN.

THE ANNIHILATION WAVE WAS UNLEASHED ON THE EARTH.

WESTCHESTER COUNTY. HARTSDALE. NEW YORK.

TWO MONTHS LATER.

NOTHING CAN STOP THE HULK.

MILLIONS DEAD, INCLUDING MOST OF THE SUPERHUMANS ON THE PLANET.

GOOD AND EVIL. THE HULK DID NOT DISCRIMINATE.

ONLY A HANDFUL OF YOUNG AND INEXPERIENCED HEROES REMAIN.

THE MOST POWERFUL OF WHICH ARE LED BY THIS MAN. **QUENTIN QUIRE.**

HE IS A GENIUS, AN OMEGA LEVEL TELEPATH WITH AN UNKNOWN AMOUNT OF UNTAPPED MENTAL ABILITIES.

QUENTIN...?

YOU OKAY, SOPHIE?

THIS IS SOPHIE. ONE OF THE THREE SURVIVING EMMA FROST PROTEGES KNOWN AS THE CUCKOOS.

NOT ONLY IS SHE A TELEPATH, BUT SHE HAS RECENTLY DEVELOPED THE ABILITY TO GLIMPSE POSSIBLE FUTURE PATHS IN HER DREAMS.

IN TIMES LIKE THESE, THAT CAN BE MORE OF A CURSE THAN A BLESSING.

ANOTHER DREAM? ARE YOU OK?

BETTER THAN OK. THIS DREAM WAS A ***GOOD*** ONE. HELP IS COMING. LOOK IN MY MIND AND SEE.

YOU SURE?

YES. JUST DON'T POKE AROUND TOO MUCH IN THERE. A GIRL'S GOT TO HAVE HER SECRETS.

YOU BEEN FANTASIZING ABOUT SPEEDBALL AGAIN?

I ***WILL*** HIT YOU.

THE DREAM WAS HAZY. BUT I KNOW THEY COME FROM SOMEPLACE ELSE.

WE HAVE TO FIND THEM AND BRING THEM BACK HERE.

THIS IS WHAT'S LEFT OF EARTH'S NEXT WAVE OF HEROES.

PATRIOT--ELIJAH BRADLEY--PEAK HUMAN ATHLETE.

SPEEDBALL--ROBERT BALDWIN--KINETIC FIELD OF ENERGY.

SOPHIE--FORMER TELEPATHIC CUCKOO WITH LIMITED FUTURE SIGHT.

THE CUCKOOS--MINDEE AND ESME--SYMBIOTIC MIND-MELDED SUPER-TELEPATHS.

KID OMEGA--QUENTIN QUIRE--SUPERIOR MUTANT INTELLECT WITH UNTAPPED TELEPATHIC ABILITIES.

LIGHTSPEED--JULIE POWER--FLIES LEAVING RAINBOW TRAIL.

WICCAN--BILLY KAPLAN--INHERITED CHAOS MAGIC AND REALITY-WARPING POWERS.

SOPHIE SAYS THESE HEROES IN HER VISION HELP REALITIES IN TROUBLE.

AND THAT WE NEED TO GET THEIR ATTENTION.

I THINK WE'RE ALL OUT OF DIMENSIONAL SIGNAL FLARES, QUENTIN.

THE BIG BRAIN OBVIOUSLY HAS A PLAN, ELIJAH. IT'S WHAT HE DOES, RIGHT? HE'S A SUPER-NERD.

I'M GOING TO FIND THEM IN THE DIMENSIONAL STREAM AND MAKE THEM COME HERE.

OH. THAT SOUNDS SUPER-EASY.

BUT I WILL NEED SOME HELP FROM--

IF SOPHIE WHO WAS ONCE ONE OF US THINKS IT, WE HAVE AS WELL.

WE ARE IN.

WICCAN?

WHATEVER YOU NEED, Q. ALTHOUGH MY REALITY POWERS HAVE DIALED UP TO ELEVEN SINCE MY MOM AND BROTHER DIED.

I THINK I'M A BIT OVER-JUICED.

THAT MIGHT COME IN HANDY.

ALL RIGHT THEN. THE FIVE OF US WILL GO INTO XAVIER'S WHILE YOU OTHER THREE STAND WATCH.

BEING OUT IN THE OPEN MIGHT LEAVE US NAKED TO THE HULK'S SCANNERS. HOPEFULLY WE'LL HAVE ENOUGH TIME.

SOPHIE WILL CONNECT US ALL WITH CEREBRA. WE OPEN UP A DIMENSIONAL GATEWAY TO FIND THE HEROES.

PIECE OF CAKE.

INSTITUTE XAVIER FOR STUDY

YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN GET THIS...WHATEVER IT IS WORKING AGAIN, Q? IT LOOKS LIKE JUNK.

HUMMMMM

OK. I STAND CORRECTED. NOW WHAT'S IT DO?

CEREBRA WAS A MUTANT-SEARCHING DEVICE. QUENTIN HAS KEYED IT INTO MY DREAM POWERS SO WE CAN FIND THESE HEROES OR A TRACE OF THEM IN ORDER TO TRACK THEM DOWN.

THEN THE CUCKOOS AND I WILL USE OUR SYMBIOTIC NATURE TO HELP US COMBINE ALL OF OUR POWERS AND FOCUS THEM ON QUENTIN.

YOUR REALITY-WARPING POWERS USING SOPHIE'S DREAM AS A GUIDE WILL HOPEFULLY TAP INTO THE LOCATION OF THESE HEROES AND SEND ME WHERE THEY ARE.

OH. OF COURSE. WHEN DID YOU THINK OF THIS?

THIS MORNING, AFTER SOPHIE SHOWED ME HER DREAM.

WE'RE DOOMED.

LISTEN. RACHEL SUMMERS WAS ABLE TO SEND HER BODY INTO THE PAST USING SIMILAR TIME AND SPACE BENDING PRINCIPLES.

WE HAD A WHOLE CLASS ON IT AT XAVIER'S. RACHEL ACTUALLY TAUGHT IT.

SO WHY DON'T YOU GO BACK IN TIME AND STOP THEM FROM SENDING THE HULK INTO SPACE?

RACHEL HAD A TEMPORAL ANCHOR TO SECURE HERSELF WITH.

OUR ONLY ANCHOR IS THE RESIDUE FROM SOPHIE'S DREAM WHICH IS FROM THE FUTURE AND CONNECTS US TO THE PORTAL SHE WITNESSED.

AND TO BE COMPLETELY HONEST. I DON'T KNOW HOW TO GO BACK IN TIME.

BUT YOU KNOW HOW TO DO *THIS?*

ENOUGH. QUENTIN, YOU'RE FREAKING HIM OUT.

ANYTHING FOR YOU.

QUENTIN! THEY'RE COMING.

A WAVE OF BUGS DESCENDED ABOUT A HALF MILE FROM HERE. THEY MUST NOT HAVE GOTTEN A FULL LOCK BUT THEY WILL.

THEN WE'RE ABORTING. LIGHTSPEED, YOU AND SPEEDBALL LEAD THEM NORTH. WE'LL—

NO, QUENTIN.

I'M NOT LEAVING YOU. WE'LL FIGURE OUT A WAY TO DO THIS LATER.

NO, WE CAN'T. YOU HAVE TO GO NOW. OUR WORLD NEEDS THESE HEROES.

WE COULDN'T SAVE IT. MAYBE THEY CAN.

NO.

DUDE, THIS IS BIGGER THAN US. IF THIS COULD SAVE THE WORLD, HOW CAN WE NOT DO IT?

WE ARE OF THE SAME MIND ON THIS.

SO SIT DOWN AND SHUT UP. YOU'RE SAVING THE WORLD TODAY.

I'M ESTABLISHING THE LINK.

SOPHIE? ARE YOU OK?

DON'T LOSE FOCUS, QUENTIN. I NEED YOUR BIG BRAIN TO FOCUS ON THE PORTAL TOO!

RUN IF YOU CAN, SOPHIE. I'LL FIND YOU.

I *WILL* COME BACK--

--AS SOON AS I CAN.

THUD

OOF!

IT WORKED. UNBELIEVABLE.

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU, BUDDY?

OH MY GOD.

CHAPTER TWO:

A QUENTIN IN TIME

HE'S YOU, DUDE. GEEKY YOU, AT LEAST.

TRIPPY.

PFFTT

I DON'T CARE WHO HE LOOKS LIKE, BEAK! KICK HIS GENE-TRASH SKULL IN! NOW!

YEAH!

QUENTIN, LET ME TORCH HIM. PLEASE. I LOVE TORCHIN' 'EM.

WAIT. I'M NOT HERE TO--

SHUT YOUR MOUTH, FREAKY TWIN MAN! AND TAKE YOUR MEDIC!--

IIRRCK

THOK

YOU KNOW IT'S AGAINST THE LAW TO USE YOUR POWERS. ESPECIALLY FOR EVIL.

UH... IT'S HIM. WHAT DO WE DO, Q?

KILL 'EM! KILL 'EM! KILL 'EM! KILL FAKE ME AND NIGHT CHUMP! SOMEONE'S MESSING WITH US!

CAN'T YOU SEE THAT, YOU IMBECILE?!

WHACK!

I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU THINK YOU ARE BUT *I'M* ME HERE.

AND YOU'RE DEAD

PLEASE. JUST LISTEN TO ME A SECOND I'M NOT HERE TO--

THE DRUGS HAVE MADE HIM TWISTED. QUENTIN QUIRE IS TOO FAR GONE TO BE REASONED WITH.

ARRGHH!

SNAP

YOU CAN'T EVEN FOCUS YOUR TELEPATHIC ABILITIES ENOUGH TO STOP ME FROM DOING THIS

WHAT A WASTE. I'D KILL FOR YOUR GENETICS.

I THINK I'VE BEEN SENT TO MEET YOU. YOU'RE NOT FROM HERE, ARE YOU?

NO. I'VE COME LOOKING FOR A TEAM OF HEROES. THEY TRAVEL FROM REALITY TO REALITY RIGHTING WRONGS.

MY FRIENDS AND I THOUGHT WE FIGURED OUT A WAY TO FIND THEM BUT I ENDED UP HERE.

YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THEM. AT LEAST THIS THING ON MY WRIST SAYS YOU ARE.

BUT THEY AREN'T HERE ANYMORE. BELIEVE ME, I'VE SEARCHED FOR THEM.

WHO ARE THEY? HOW WILL I FIND THEM?

"I DON'T KNOW. WHEN THEY WERE HERE THEY SAVED US FROM AN EVIL SUPERHUMAN NAMED HYPERION.

"I WAS A BOY THEN. WHEN IT WAS ALL OVER MY FATHER AND I PULLED ONE OF THEM FROM THE WRECKAGE.

"A PALE SHAPE-CHANGER. THEY LEFT AND NO ONE EVER SAW THEM AGAIN."

THE STATE BUILT THIS MONUMENT TO THE HEROES WHO SAVED US.

PEOPLE TRIED TO PICK UP THE PIECES AND MOVE ON BUT AFTER HYPERION KILLED MOST OF OUR HEROES THE VILLAINS MADE THE CITY A KILLING GROUND.

WITHIN A YEAR THE UNITED STATES OUTLAWED ALL POWERS, SAID THEY WERE TOO DANGEROUS.

THEY FOU
A SKIN

MAKING A LAW OF COURSE, DOESN'T STOP THE CRIMINALS FROM POWERING UP.

MOST OF THE BIG CITIES ARE OVERRUN WITH MUTANTS OR GENETICALLY ENGINEERED BADDIES FIGHTING OVER THEIR TURF.

AND THAT'S WHERE I COME IN. TOOK THE NAME NIGHTHAWK AND SPENT MY DAYS AND NIGHTS PATROLLING WHAT'S LEFT OF THIS CITY TRYING TO KEEP PEOPLE SAFE.

BUT IF ANYONE WITH POWERS IS OUTLAWED, WHY DON'T THEY ARREST YOU?

WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT HAVING ANY POWERS?

YOU'RE *ONLY HUMAN?* THAT'S CRAZY. WHY DO YOU DO IT?

SAME REASON I ASSUME THEY DID IT IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO

BUT YOU SAID THEY AREN'T HERE ANYMORE, RIGHT?

NOT FOR THE LAST NINE YEARS, MAN. I'M SORRY

BUT I MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING HERE THAT CAN HELP YOU OUT.

THAT GUY HE SACRIFICED HIMSELF KILLING HYPERION.

HE WAS WEARING THIS THING.

"I FOUND IT IN THE RUBBLE. I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMEONE CALLING OUT FROM UNDERNEATH IT

"WHEN I FOUND IT, I HEARD SOMETHING SAY *'THANK YOU'* IN MY HEAD BUT IT NEVER SPOKE AGAIN.

"I KEPT IT EVER SINCE KIND OF LIKE A REMINDER OF WHAT I'M DOING HERE."

AN HOUR AGO IT SPOKE AGAIN.

IT SAID SOMEONE WAS COMING TO RETRIEVE IT AND THAT I SHOULD MEET HIM.

AND HERE YOU ARE

UH. THANKS. I GUESS.

ALTHOUGH I DON'T KNOW WHAT GOOD A BIG BRACELET

BLINK

WHOA.

IF YOU DO SAVE REALITIES... I'M SORRY THIS WORLD DIDN'T TURN OUT SO HOT. WISH YOU'D COME BACK THOUGH.

I COULD SURE USE SOME HELP

BLINK

--WILL DO.

HELLO, QUENTIN. IT IS GOOD TO FINALLY MEET YOU.

NEVER FORGET V DAY

YOU SPEAK? I THOUGHT NIGHTHAWK WAS NUTS.

WE HAVE MANY TASKS TO ACCOMPLISH.

TASKS? I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR ANYTHING BUT GETTING BACK TO MY FRIENDS. THEY NEED HELP NOW. AND I NEED THOSE HEROES--

THE EXILES ARE WHO YOU SEEK.

IF YOU DO AS YOU ARE ASKED, YOU WILL MEET THEM. I PROMISE.

CHAPTER THREE: LEGACY

AND YOU WILL BE ABLE TO SAVE YOUR FRIENDS.

THAT'S ALL I NEEDED TO HEAR.

WHAT'S MY FIRST MISSION?

I NEED YOU TO GRAB THOSE FLOWERS AND PLACE THEM ON A GRAVE

WHAT? THAT'S IT?

IF YOU WANT TO MEET THE EXILES, THIS IS YOUR FIRST STEP

WHICH PAVE—

STRAIGHT AHEAD.

MARIKO YASHIDA, SUNFIRE?

WHO WAS SHE?

SHE WAS AN EXILE WHO GAVE HER LIFE ON A WORLD FAR FROM HER OWN.

MARIK YASHID SUNFIR 1980-2004

OH.

EXCUSE ME? DO I KNOW YOU?

UH, NO.

I DIDN'T

HOW DID YOU KNOW MARIKO?

WELL, IT'S NICE OF YOU TO LEAVE FLOWERS FOR HER.

I'M MARY.

QUENTIN.

DO YOU REALIZE YOU'RE SOAKING WET?

UH, YEAH. KIDS WITH...WATER BALLOONS.

RIGHT. WELL, IT IS A CELEBRATION.

YOU READY MARY? IT'S TIME FOR THE CEREMONY

YOU CAN DROP THE *"I'M IN CHARGE HERE"* TONE, LUKE. YOU'RE NOT MY SQUAD LEADER ANYMORE.

I'M NOT SPIDER-GIRL AND YOU'RE NOT POWER FIST. THE VI-LOCKS ARE GONE. THE WAR'S OVER.

NOT ENOUGH PEOPLE LEFT FOR ANYONE TO WANT TO CONQUER THIS WORLD

THIS IS QUENTIN. HE CAME TO VISIT MARIKO. CHECK OUT HIS WRIST.

A TALLUS? I'LL BE DAMNED

I DIDN'T MEAN TO DISTURB YOU.

HELL NO, QUENTIN.

YOU'RE AN EXILE, RIGHT?! WITHOUT THE EXILES THIS PLACE WOULD BE A VI-LOCK HIVE INSTEAD OF REMEMBRANCE PARK.

THIS WAS DESERT WHEN WE USED TO BURY OUR DEAD HERE. WE NEVER REALLY HAD MANY TO BURY BECAUSE THE VI-LOCKS INFECTED EVERYONE.

BUT AFTER WE FOUND A VACCINE FOR IT...THEY STARTED TO KILL.

MARIKO NISHIDA

1980-2004

IT'S BEEN A YEAR SINCE THE LAST VI-LOCK WAS DESTROYED AND IT'S LIKE THEY WERE NEVER HERE.

WHERE IS MORPH? NOCTURNE AND BLINK? IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT?

TO BE HONEST I DON'T KNOW. I'M LOOKING FOR THEM. MY WORLD NEEDS THEM

THIS THING SAID TO LAY FLOWERS ON MARIKO'S GRAVE SO I DID.

WELL, DAMN. BOY IF YOU'RE LAYING FLOWERS ON THE GIRL'S GRAVE YOU OUGHTA KNOW A BIT ABOUT HER, DON'T YOU THINK?

DO YOU MIND, MARY?

NOT AT ALL. I LIKE TALKING ABOUT HER.

"MY FAVORITE STORY ABOUT HER IS WHEN MARIKO AND NOCTURNE WERE TRAPPED IN OUR REALITY WITH JS. THE EXILES WERE SEPARATED SOMEHOW AND THEY ENDED UP HERE.

"LUKE TOOK THE FOUR OF US TO CLEAN OUT A VI-LOCK NEST IN MONTANA. A PIECE OF CAKE, HE CALLED IT."

"YOU'RE GOING TO TELL THIS ONE?

"HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO KNOW THEY HAD SOME OMEGA CLASS NFECTED IN THERE?

"I HIT COLOSSUS WITH A PRETTY NICE SHOT

"AND HE GOT IN A LUCKY SHOT BACK. KNOCKED ME SILLY.

"APPARENTLY WHILE I WAS UNCONSCIOUS ONE OF THOSE VI-LOCK WORKERS STARTED INFECTING ME.

"NOW, EVEN THOUGH WE HAD A VACCINE AND ALL THEY WOULD HAVE HAD TO DO WAS BRING ME BACK TO HOME BASE AND GIVE ME A BOOSTER DOSE...

"--SUNFIRE UNLEASHES THE MOTHER OF ALL FLAME BLASTS ON MY IMPERVIOUS ASS."

BURNT MY CLOTHES OFF SINGED MY LUNGS. LANDED ME IN THE INFIRMARY FOR A WEEK.

NOW WHY IS THAT FUNNY, GIRL?

I WAS JUST THINKING OF YOU, NUDE AND SMOKING, RIDING IN THE BACK OF THE QUINJET, SWEARING UP A STORM.

MARIKO KEPT SAYING SHE WAS SO MORTIFIED, SHE JUST WANTED TO...

I THINK I'M GOING TO HEAD OVER TO THE CELEBRATION, OK?

SURE THING, MARY

THEY WERE REALLY CLOSE...

I CAN TELL.

LISTEN, DR. MCCOY THE BEAST, SPENT A LOT OF TIME TRYING TO FIGURE OUT THIS EXILES STUFF AND THE WAY THEY TRAVEL. MAYBE HE CAN HELP YOU FIND THEM.

THAT WOULD BE AMAZ

WELL, KID...

GOOD LUCK OUT THERE. SAVE A FEW WORLDS FOR ME.

BLINK

--ING!

BLINK

WELL DONE, QUENTIN. ON TO THE NEXT MISSION.

WHY'D YOU DO THAT? THEY WERE GOING TO HELP ME FIND THE EXILES.

YOU DON'T NEED ANY HELP DOING THAT. WE'LL DELIVER THEM TO YOU.

BESIDES, YOU'RE DOING FINE ON YOUR OWN.

CHAPTER FOUR:

WORLD TOUR

YOUR MISSION HERE IS TO MAKE SURE A HERO STAYS ON THE RIGHT PATH.

SOMEONE'S BEHIND ME, AREN'T THEY?

I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE TALKING TO BUT DON'T MOVE. THIS IS A RESTRICTED SPACE

MY PARANORMAL SENSOR LIT UP LIKE A CHRISTMAS TREE IN HERE

LISTEN, I'M NOT HERE TO HURT YOU.

SURE. YOU'RE JUST HERE ON A TOUR OF THE MOST HIGHLY CLASSIFIED MILITARY INSTALLATION IN THE UNITED STATES JUST TO SIGHTSEE

I SAW WHAT YOU DID YOU JUST APPEARED IN HERE. MY ARMOR DETECTS YOU FOLK.

YOU'RE ONE OF THEM, AREN'T YOU? A PARANORMAL

NO. I'M A MUTANT. I CAN READ MINDS...

YOUR WORLD JUST STARTED TO HAVE SUPERHUMANS...

AND YOUR ARMOR IS MADE TO HUNT THEM BUT...

AHH. WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

YOU'RE HERE TO DESTROY THE ARMOR? WHY? YOUR FATHER HELPED YOU CREATE IT

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE HELL YOU JUST DID BUT IF YOUR EYES GLOW AGAIN YOU'LL BE GLOWING FOR A WHOLE DIFFERENT REASON

YOU AREN'T GOING TO HURT ANYONE.

YOU WOULDN'T BE DESTROYING THAT ARMOR IF YOU REALLY WANTED TO HURT ANYONE.

YOU REALLY A MIND READER?

AWESOME. JUST MY LUCK.

YOU'D THINK YOU'D BE HAPPY I WANT TO DESTROY THIS ARMOR.

IT'S MEANT TO HUNT YOUR KIND. THE GOVERNMENT IS MESSING IN THEIR PANTS THINKING ABOUT PEOPLE LIKE YOU.

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO? LET THEM USE MY FATHER'S LEGACY TO HURT PEOPLE? NO WAY!

YOU COULD STEAL IT AND KEEP IT INSTEAD OF DESTROYING IT?

WHAT THE HELL WOULD I DO WITH IT THEN? BETTER TO BURY IT IN SOME RAVINE AND TAKE OUT THE MOTHER-BOARD.

YOU SAID THESE PEOPLE ARE GOING TO BE HUNTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

I'VE HEARD SOME THINGS ABOUT THAT DURING...WELL KIND OF A HISTORY CLASS I HAD. YOU DON'T HAVE TO DESTROY THE ARMOR.

WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH IT? TAKE IT HOME AND KEEP IT IN THE GARAGE?

YOU COULD HELP THOSE WHO CAN'T HELP THEMSELVES.

NO YOU'RE CRAZY I'M NO HERO.

STAY WHERE YOU ARE! YOU ARE UNDER ARREST!

JUST PERFECT

PUT YOUR HANDS DOWN, JENNY. WE KNOW YOU MUST HAVE PICKED THIS GUY UP JUST LIKE WE DID

WE DETECTED THIS SPY AS SOON AS HE TELEPORTED IN. IT WAS THE SAME ENERGY SPIKE WE GOT FROM PENNSYLVANIA BACK IN '04.

AT THIS POINT MAYBE SOMEONE SHOULD JUST SHOOT ME.

DON'T JOKE THESE GUYS MEAN BUSINESS AND I KNOW WHAT THEY HAVE PLANNED FOR YOUR KIND

HANG ON!

JENNY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

THWOOM

WHAT I KNOW MY FATHER WOULD HAVE WANTED ME TO DO.

USING THIS ARMOR FOR THE RIGHT THING

WELL, THAT WAS CRAZY

I COULD HAVE HANDLED THAT...BUT I HAVE TO ADMIT THAT WAS VERY COOL.

BLINK

WE HAVE A FEW SECONDS TO CATCH OUR BREATH.

SO WHAT DO WE DO NOW? YOU WITH YOUR POWERS AND ME WITH A BIG SUIT OF ARMOR? ARE WE SOME KIND OF CRAZY SUPER DUO NOW OR WHAT?

MAYBE WE SHOULD START WITH NAMES. I'M JENNY SWENSON. THIS IS THE SPITFIRE ARMOR.

HELLO?

WHOOSH

I MUST BE NUTS

BLAM

BLAM

THERE GOES THAT MUTIE! GET HIM!

GRRRR.

JUST BECAUSE THE PRESIDENT AND THAT MUTIE MAGNETO ARE IN BED TOGETHER DOESN'T MEAN WE ALL HAVE TO SIT BACK AND DO NOTHING.

APOCALYPSE MADE BEIN' A HUMAN HELL ON EARTH FOR TWENTY YEARS. IT'S TIME FOR SOME OLD-FASHIONED NORMAL FOLK PAYBACK FREAK! NOW COME ON OUT!

GRRAAH!

KILL IT!

IT'S TOO QUICK!

CHAPTER FIVE: THE LOST SON

UURRKK

BLAM

AROOO!

SLEEP

THEY CAN'T HURT YOU ANYMORE, KYLE.

I SHUT DOWN THEIR MINDS FOR A WHILE. IT DRAINS ME QUITE A BIT TO BE HONEST

I ALMOST USED IT A FEW MINUTES AGO AND THAT WOULD HAVE LEFT US A BIT OUT OF LUCK.

MAN. FOR A GROUP THAT CALLED THEMSELVES THE FRIENDS OF HUMANITY IT SEEMS LIKE THEY AREN'T TOO FRIENDLY

GRRRR

I'M NOT GOING TO HURT YOU. LET ME TAKE A LOOK AT YOUR ARM.

A HEALER TOO, HUH? MUST BE NICE.

THIS THING SAID IF I SAVE YOU I CAN SAVE MY FRIENDS.

BUT I THINK I'VE MADE A HUGE MISTAKE. THIS S TAKING TOO LONG. WHAT IF THEY'RE DEAD?

NEGATIVITY WILL GET YOU NOWHERE, QUENTIN.

WHO?

I AM THE TIMEBROKER. AND I'M GLAD YOU AND WILD CHILD HAVE FINALLY MET.

THANK YOU FOR HELP NG MY FEROCIOUS LITTLE FR.END HERE.

WHO ARE YOU? DO YOU KNOW WHERE THE EXILES ARE?

YES. DO NOT FEAR. YOUR JOURNEY HAD A PURPOSE.

MY WORLD NEEDS HELP SOPHIE AND THE OTHERS--

I KNOW. STEP INSIDE AND HELP YOU SHALL RECEIVE.

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU TOO, BOY

I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK OF YOU

THERE'S NO ONE HERE. I CAN'T READ ANYONE. NOT EVEN YOU.

YOU ARE QUITE POWERFUL BUT NOT *ALL* POWERFUL MR. QUIRE

THIS THING SPOKE TO ME AND PROMISED I'D MEET THE EXILES.

THAT I'D BE ABLE TO BRING THEM BACK TO MY WORLD TO HELP DEFEAT THE HULK AND HIS ANNIHILATION WAVE.

INSTEAD YOU BRING ME TO THIS PINK PLACE? WHEN AM I GOING TO FINALLY MEET THEM?

YOU *HAVE* MET THEM. WHAT DID YOU THINK?

CHAPTER SIX: MEET THE EXILES...

THOSE ARE THE EXILES? BUT I SAW THEIR MONUMENT ON NIGHTHAWK'S WORLD. THAT'S NOT THEM.

THOSE HEROES WERE EXILES AS WELL. THE ORIG NALS. MOSTLY

BUT THESE ARE YOUR EXILES. YOU WILL LEAD THEM.

MY EXILES? WHAT ARE YOU TALK.NG ABOUT?

A HICCUP IN YOUR TIMELINE LEFT YOUR REALITY COMPROMISED. IT WAS AN ACCIDENT. THESE TH NGS HAPPEN.

IN ORDER TO FIX THAT WE NEEDED TO MAKE SOME ADJUSTMENTS. WE ARE GIVING YOU A TEAM TO HELP YOU RIGHT YOUR WORLD.

NIGHTHAWK DOESN'T EVEN HAVE ANY POWERS.

THAT IS TRUE.

I AM NOT GUARANTEE NG ANYTHING I AM SETTING YOUR WORLD RIGHT BY GIVING YOU THESE HEROES.

WHETHER YOU WIN OR LOSE IS UP TO THE CHOICES ALL OF YOU MAKE TOGETHER.

THEY ALL AGREED TO HELP?

YES. THEY DID. WE NFORMED THEM OF YOUR WORLD'S ISSUES.

THEY WERE EAGER TO "*CRACK SOME SKULLS*" AS MR. CAGE SO ELOQUENTLY PUT IT

THEN LET'S DO IT WE'LL MAKE THINGS RIGHT

THERE IS ONE OTHER THING.

THERE MAY COME A TIME WHEN YOU AND YOUR TEAM ARE NEEDED. I NEED TO KNOW YOU WILL HEED THAT CALL IF BECKONED.

YES. IF IT MEANS A CHANCE AT SAVING MY WORLD AND SOPHIE, I'LL DO ANYTHING.

THANK YOU.

PERFECT THEN WE HAVE A DEAL. OFF YOU GO.

WE WILL BE WATCHING.

WAIT WHO'S *"WE"*?

WHAT IF--?

GOOD LUCK, QUENTIN.

SAVE YOUR WORLD AND YOUR FRIENDS.

GET OFF ME, BUG!

COMIN' THROUGH, UGLY!

THERE IS NO OTHER WAY OUT OF HERE, GUYS. IT'S A BIG ROOM WITH ONE DOOR. WHAT A JOKE.

SORRY I LET ONE THROUGH, ELIJAH. I CAN'T HOLD THEM MUCH LONGER.

HOW MANY MORE ARE OUT THERE?

WAY MORE THAN WE CAN HANDLE.

THEY HAVE NO MINDS FOR US TO FRY.

CHAPTER SEVEN: HOME

ALL RIGHT THEN. WICCAN... BILLY, LET THEM IN.

WHAT?

WE HAVE NO CHOICE. THERE'S NO PLACE ELSE TO GO. WE NEED WHAT LITTLE ENERGY YOU HAVE LEFT TO GET AT LEAST A FEW OF US OUT OF HERE.

WHEN THE DOOR IS UNBLOCKED, SPEEDBALL AND LIGHTSPEED WILL GET AS MANY OF US OUT AS THEY CAN.

YOU LEAVE ME UNTIL LAST.

UNDERSTOOD.

WAITAMINUTE. WE'RE NOT LEAVING ANYONE BEHIND.

I DON'T THINK YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE MUCH CHOICE.

LET IT DOWN, BILLY.

KKRRAAHHHH

HERE THEY COME! LET'S--

SPLOOSH

SLLACK

YES!

YOU DID IT!

SORRY IT TOOK ME SO LONG, GUYS.

THESE ARE THE EXILES. THEY'RE HERE TO HELP.

DO YOU THINK IT WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

WE GAVE THEM BACK THE HEROES THEY SHOULDN'T HAVE LOST. WE RIGHTED THE COSMIC BALANCE FOR ANOTHER DAY.

SHOULD WE DO MORE?

NO. THEIR WORLD'S NIGHTHAWK, IRON MAN, LUKE CAGE, AND WILD CHILD DIED IN THE HULK'S INITIAL ASSAULT WHEN THEY SHOULDN'T HAVE.

THEY WERE MEANT TO WORK WITH QUENTIN AND HIS TEAM TO CREATE AN UNDERGROUND MOVEMENT. WE JUST WITNESSED ITS BEGINNINGS.

THE MISSION WE'RE TAKING ON NOW...IT'S BIGGER THAN THIS. WE CAN'T KEEP NOODLIN' WITH THE SMALL PICTURE STUFF.

YOU *ARE* RETIRING. DON'T GET ANY IDEAS.

I'M STILL A BIT NERVOUS ABOUT THIS SPITFIRE GIRL REPLACING IRON MAN...

RUSHING IN AND SAVING THE DAY WOULD BE OVERKILL, HUH?

HOW MANY TONY STARKS HAVE WE GOTTEN ALONG WITH?

GOOD POINT... NOW TELL ME WHY THIS ONE WAS SO IMPORTANT TO YOU, CLARICE?

CHAPTER EIGHT: MOVING ON

BECAUSE WHILE WE WERE SUPPOSED TO BE SAVING IRON MAN AND HIS CREW FROM DYING IN THIS CRASH--

--WE WERE CHASING PROTEUS ACROSS MULTIPLE REALITIES.

IF NOT FOR THAT THING POSSESSING MIMIC AND KILLING HIM WE WOULD HAVE.

SETTING REALITIES STRAIGHT... GETTING THEM BACK ON THEIR NATURAL PATH...IT ISN'T AS CUT-AND-DRY AS WE MIGHT HOPE IT WOULD BE.

IS THAT WHAT YOU LEARNED WITH THAT CUTTHROAT WEAPON X TEAM YOU RAN WITH?

NO. IT'S WHAT I LEARNED FROM RUNNING WITH YOUR EXILES TEAM.

YOU WERE PRETTY CONVINCING AS THE TIMEBROKER. I CAN'T BELIEVE A GUY DRESSED AS A BUTLER CONVINCED YOU GUYS TO RUN AROUND HALF CRAZY SAVING REALITY AFTER REALITY.

WHO GAVE *YOUR* TEAM ORDERS? SATAN HIMSELF?

YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME.

NOPE. SHE WAS A PRETTY HARSH TASKMASTER.

DON'T WORRY, CLARICE. WE'LL BE THERE FOR THEM IF THEY NEED US.

I KNOW.

IT'S TIME TO REST.

I HOPE I DID ENOUGH.

YOU DID GOOD, KID. YOU DID GOOD.

END.